



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/765,880	01/18/2001	Gregory P. Crawford	12136.125	9292

7590 09/16/2003

Mary Rose Scozzafava, Esq.
Hale and Dorr LLP
60 State Street
Boston, MA 02109

EXAMINER

AKKAPEDDI, PRASAD R

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2871

DATE MAILED: 09/16/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	09/765,880	CRAWFORD ET AL.
	Examiner Prasad R Akkapeddi	Art Unit 2871

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 19 June 2003.
- 2a) This action is **FINAL**. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-14 and 32 is/are pending in the application.
 - 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 1-14 and 32 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on 18 January 2001 is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) approved b) disapproved by the Examiner.

If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
 - a) The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)	4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____.
2) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)	5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____.	6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Election/Restrictions

1. Applicant's election without traverse of claims 1-14 and 32 in Paper No. 8 is acknowledged. Claims 15-31 and 33-47 are cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer.

Drawings

2. The drawings filed on 01/18/2001 are acceptable subject to correction of the informalities indicated on the attached "Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review," PTO-948. In order to avoid abandonment of this application, correction is required in reply to the Office action. The correction will not be held in abeyance.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

3. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

4. Claims 1-4, 7-13 and 32 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Sutherland et al. (Sutherland I) (U.S. Patent No. 5,942,157).

As to claims 1 and 32: Sutherland I, discloses a device having electrically controllable, variable reflection gratings (diffraction efficiency, note: diffraction is a form of reflection by a grating) (col. 1, lines 15-25) having a composition comprising a periodic array of liquid crystal disposed in a polymer matrix (PDLC) (col. 5, lines 18-25), the liquid crystal having an index of refraction that is variable in response to an applied electric field, wherein the index of refraction of the

liquid crystal array and the index of refraction of the polymer matrix, n_p , are mismatched at first and second applied electric field strength (col. 17, lines 27-61). Sutherland I, discloses the application of external electric field across the ITO electrodes for applying the electric fields (col. 10, lines 15-16) and a means for the application of the electric field (figs. 14-17).

As to claims 2-4: Sutherland I, discloses the application of various electric fields, including a field strength of zero volts (Fig. 4), as recited in instant claim 2, The alignment of the liquid crystal droplets with the electric field is disclosed in Fig. 8b and (col. 9, lines 47-53) and the various reflection wavelengths with the applied electric field is disclosed in Fig. 4.

As to claims 7-13: Sutherland I, discloses that the liquid crystal has a positive and negative dielectric anisotropy (col. 3, lines 41-42), as recited in instant the claims 7 and 8 and the dielectric anisotropy dependence upon applied field frequency is disclosed in (col. 13, lines 60-63), as recited in the instant claim 9. Sutherland I, discloses the application of these reflection gratings in switchable filters (col. 15, line 41), as recited in the instant claim 10. Sutherland I, discloses a power source for the application of the electric field (Figs. 14-17) and the electrodes being ITO that is electrically conductive (col. 7, lines 57-58), as recited in the instant claims 11-13.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

5. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

Art Unit: 2871

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

6. Claims 5-6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sutherland I in view of Sutherland et al. (Sutherland II) (Applied Physics Letters 64 (9), 28 February 1994), the Applicant cited disclosure.

Sutherland I, discloses an effective refractive index of the liquid crystal (n_{LC}) and a refractive index for the polymer (n_p) (col. 17, lines 27-30).

However, Sutherland I, does not explicitly state that the liquid crystal has an ordinary (n_0) and an extraordinary (n_e) refractive indices and that the (n_0 is not equal to n_p) and does not disclose that the indices are related by ($n_e > n_p > n_0$).

Sutherland II, on the other hand in disclosing electrically switchable volume gratings in polymer-dispersed liquid crystals, discloses that the liquid crystal having an ordinary ($n_0 = 1.518$) and an extraordinary ($n_e = 1.738$) indices of refraction and the refractive index of the polymer ($n_p = 1.517$) (page 1076). Hence the relationships (n_0 is not equal to n_p) and ($n_e > n_p > n_0$) is satisfied, as recited in claims 5 and 6.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to adapt the specific indices of refraction for the liquid crystal and the polymer satisfying the indicated relationships to achieve devices with high diffraction efficiencies, as well as narrow band wavelength and angle selectivity (page 1074).

7. Claim 14 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sutherland I, in view of Catchpole et al. (Catchpole) (U.S. Patent No. 5,644,330).

Sutherland I discloses that the electrode comprises a conductive layer made out of ITO. Sutherland I, however, does not disclose that the electrode is a metallic electrode.

Catchpole, in disclosing a driving method for polymer stabilized liquid crystal displays, discloses that the electrode layer (18) may be a thin layer of metal such as silver, copper, titanium and molybdenum, including a thin layer of transparent conductive material such as Indium tin oxide (col. 3, lines 55-60).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to adapt the thin layer of metal in place of Indium tin oxide, as long as the metal layer is transparent (col. 3, line 54-55) for low energy consumption devices and for effective addressing of large, color displays.

8. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Havens et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,691,790) discloses a colored reflective liquid crystal display.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Prasad R Akkapeddi whose telephone number is 703-305-4767. The examiner can normally be reached on 7:00AM to 5:30PM M-Th.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Robert H Kim can be reached on 703-305-3492. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are 703-872-9318 for regular communications and 703-872-9319 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-308-0530.

September 3, 2003


T. Chaudhury
Primary Examiner